-8 DEC
R A

LIBRARY

DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T S

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of

THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1948

----oOOo----

West Hill House,
West Hill,
Epsom.

November, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the
DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit an annual report for the year 1948 which has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health circular 3/49.

On the whole, healthy conditions prevailed during the year, and the figures of vital statistics set out in Tables I and II support this conclusion. There were, it is true, large outbreaks of whooping cough and measles among the child population. The incidence of these diseases bears little relation to the environmental conditions of the locality, but depends upon the proportion of susceptible persons to those immune. With these diseases it is the number of patients who develope conplications which is more likely to reflect the state of the home environment. Severe cases of measles and whooping cough in poor surroundings would benefit by admission to hospital but frequently accommodation has not been available for this purpose.

The infant mortality rate was slightly higher than the previous year, but was lower than the figure for England and Wales. All the infant deaths occurred within a month of birth; eight died on the first day, two on the second day, one on the fourth day, and one on the twenty-eighth day. Prematurity and congenital defects were the principal causes of death, and the prevention of these conditions depends upon a greatly increased knowledge of the conditions producing them.

Housing conditions, so vital in any consideration of health conditions of a district, are dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspectors report. There is no relaxing of the demand for accommodation of all kinds in the district. Worn out property which in easier times would have been condemned, is occupied as soon as vacated, frequently by newcomers to the district. Repair work lags in many cases, so that deterioration of buildings is accelerated. The Council itself is responsible for a large number of hutments, the condition of which is such that they are bound to become uninhabitable in a fairly short time. The conclusion is that although progress has been made with new estates in several parishes, much remains to be done to satisfy the demand.

I beg to acknowledge the support which has been given by the Council to the Public Health Department, and the kindness and courtesy which it has shown to myself. I take the opportunity of commending the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff on the energetic manner in which they have carried out their duties.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRUS IVE

Medical Officer of Health.

DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

Cyrus Ive, M.B.,B.S.(Lond.),M.R.C.S.(Eng.),L.R.C.P.(Lond.) D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer

** *** Eric A. Atkinson, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

N.E. Whitby, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector's Assistant

W.R. Gilling.

Medical Officer of Health's Clerical Staff

Senior Clerk:	C.H. Argent.
Typist:	Miss. B. Croft.
Junior Clerk:	M.A. Forshaw. (Temporary).

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Clerical Staff:

Chief Clerk:	B.C. Kennedy
Shorthand Typist:	Miss. M. Moody.
Clerk:	Miss. P. Scott-Martin
Clerk:	Miss. M. Worsell.
Rodent Operator:	C. Jordan.

(The Medical Officer of Health and his clerical staff act in a similar capacity for the Borough of Epsom and Ewell, and the Dorking and Leatherhead Urban Districts).

Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

* Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate in Sanitary Science applied to Public Buildings and Works.

** Ollett Silver Medalist 1945.

----------oOo----------

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29165246

TABLE I

COMPARATIVE BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN THE YEAR 1948

	England and Wales	Dorking & Horley Rural District
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population		
Births		
Live Births	17.9	16.6
Still Births	0.42	0.33
Deaths		
All causes	10.8	10.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-
Whooping Cough	0.02	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.37
Influenza	0.03	-
Smallpox	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	-
Pneumonia	0.41	0.53
Notifications (Corrected)		
Typhoid Fever	0.01	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.03	-
Scarlet Fever	1.73	0.93
Whooping Cough	3.42	7.24
Diphtheria	0.08	0.08
Erysipelas	0.21	0.28
Smallpox	-	-
Measles	9.34	14.67
Pneumonia	0.73	0.77
Acute Poliomyelitis...	0.04	0.08
Acute Polioencephalitis	-	-
Rates per 1,000 Live Births		
Deaths under 1 year of age	34	29.3
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age.	3.3	-
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.		
Notifications (Corrected)		
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	6.89	-
Maternal Mortality		
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis ...	0.24	-
Other Maternal Causes	0.73	-

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	53,791
Population	
Population (Census 1931)	18,485
Population (estimated mid-year 1948) ...	24,600
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books at 31st December, 1948 ...	7,245
Rateable value at 31st December, 1948 ...	£222,649
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£871

The Rural District consists of a rectangular-shaped area of approximately 85 square miles and is comprised of the Parishes of Abinger, Betchworth, Buckland, Capel, Charlwood, Headley, Holmwood, Horley, Leigh, Newdigate, Ockley and Wotton.

PARISHES COMPRISING THE DISTRICT, WITH AREA, NUMBER OF HOUSES, AND RATEABLE VALUE

Parish	Area (Acres)	No. of houses (April 1948)	Rateable Value (April 1948)
			£
Abinger	7,481	556	16,352
Betchworth	2,562	451	13,521
Buckland	1,362	198	7,822
Capel	5,694	657	17,187
Charlwood	6,901	751	31,047
Headley	1,640	135	5,605
Holmwood	3,749	262	9,368
Horley	7,449	3,273	96,867
Leigh	3,419	217	6,315
Newdigate	4,744	365	9,203
Ockley	3,400	254	6,395
Wotton	5,390	201	5,540
TOTALS	53,791	7,320	225,222

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births:-				
Total live births	409	182	227	Birth rate per 1,000 Civilian Population. 16.6
Legitimate	384	173	211	
Illegitimate	25	9	16	
Still Births:-				
Total still births	8	5	3	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live & Still Births. 19.2
Legitimate	8	5	3	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths (net)	248	127	121	Crude Death Rate 10.1
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-				
Total infant deaths	12	6	6	
Legitimate	11	6	5	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	

Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births 29.3

Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 28.6

Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 40.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births.
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	-	-

Deaths from:-

Measles	(all ages)	...	-
Whooping Cough	(all ages)	...	-
Diarrhoea	(under 2 years of age)		-
Cancer	(all ages)	...	35

Table 1 shows a comparison of the vital statistics of the year for the district with those for England and Wales.

Table 11 shows a comparison of birth, death and infant mortality rates for the district since 1933 with figures for England and Wales during the same period.

TABLE II

COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Period	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population. (Annual Rates 1940-1948).		Average Annual Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population. (Annual Rates 1940-1948)		Average Annual Death Rate of Children under 1 year of age, per 1,000 Live Births (Annual Rates 1940-1948).	
	England and Wales	Dorking and Horley	England and Wales	Dorking and Horley	England and Wales	Dorking and Horley
1933-1940	14.8	14.1	12.0	12.0	57.1	45.3
1940	14.6	13.4	14.3	12.3	55.	50.2
1941	14.2	14.1	12.9	11.9	59	46.0
1942	15.8	18.5	11.6	12.9	49	55.1
1943	16.5	17.5	12.1	12.6	49	34.3
1944	17.6	19.3	11.6	12.2	46	27.5
1945	16.1	15.8	11.4	11.9	46	35.3
1946	19.1	18.4	11.5	11.9	43	29.0
1947	20.5	21.0	12.0	10.0	41	22.6
1948	17.9	16.6	10.8	10.1	31	29.3

TABLE III

CAUSES OF DEATH - DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6	3	9
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
9. Influenza	-	-	-
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-	-
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	-	-
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus(males)	1	-	1
13a. Cancer of Uterus (females)	-	3	3
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	2	5
15. Cancer of Breast	-	5	5
16. Cancer of all other sites	17	9	26
17. Diabetes	-	1	1
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	17	22	39
19. Heart Disease	33	36	69
20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	5	3	8
21. Bronchitis	4	3	7
22. Pneumonia	9	4	13
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	-	1
24. Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	2	-	2
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	1	-	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	2	4	6
28. Nephritis	3	3	6
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	2	3	5
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease.	3	3	6
33. Suicide	-	-	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents	2	-	2
35. Other Violent Causes	-	1	1
36. All Other Causes	16	16	32
	127	121	248

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratories available to medical pratitioners are situated at the East Surrey Hospital, Redhill and at St.John's Hospital, Redhill.

The provision of services relating to the care of mothers and young children, midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, immunisation and vaccination, ambulance and domestic help are the responsibility of the Surrey County Council as local health authority.

Hospital accommodation, including those for infectious diseases, is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Three companies supply water to the various parts of the District. The area covered by the East Surrey Water Company, a statutory undertaking, includes the Parishes of Betchworth, Buckland, Charlwood, Headley, Horley, Leigh and Newdigate. In these Parishes there are only a few isolated premises which do not have the benefit of a piped main water supply.

The East Surrey Water Company obtains most of its water from deep wells in the chalk of the North Downs. The water is softened and chlorinated before distribution.

The Dorking Water Company is a statutory water undertaking distributing the water to the Parishes of Capel, Holmwood and Ockley. The Company obtains its water from a series of fifteen wells situated a little to the south of Pippbrook stream shortly before it reaches the western outskirts of Dorking. The boreholes extend to a depth of 150 feet into the Folkestone beds, from which the water is siphoned to a reservoir situated at the works. After chlorination it is pumped to covered service reservoirs.

In this part of the area there are a number of premises which, owing to their isolated position, have not so far been provided with a piped main water supply. During the year the extension of a piped supply to the hamlet of Coldharbour was completed.

The Hurtwood Water Company has mains in the Parishes of Abinger and Wotton, though a considerable part of this area remains dependent on wells, springs or piped supplies from private water undertakings. At Abinger Hammer there is a closely built up hamlet, for which an extension of a main water supply is most desirable, a remark which also applies to a group of some twenty cottages in the North Abinger area. An extension of piped water supplies to Wotton House and its vicinity will be made when materials are available.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No important changes have occurred during the year in connection with drainage and sewerage. The most important sewage works in the district are those at Horley, and unfortunately the standard of the effluent did not reach its previously high level. The cause of this lay in the loss of efficiency of the filter beds, possibly as the result of the effect of a trade waste on the filter medium.

Extension of the sewerage system is most desirable in several areas, particularly in Charlwood village at Lowfield Heath, Abinger Hammer and the White Hart Estate, Capel.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Inspections for Purposes of Provision as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors:

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	74	15	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	74	15	2	-

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS contd.

Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	-	-

Other matters connected with sanitary circumstances are dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

I Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	680
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,461
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	378
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	378
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	-
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	138

II Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	82

III Actions under Statutory Powers during the year:

A. Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owners	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	-

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	-

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

HOUSING (contd.)

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

The Chief Sanitary Inspector's report contains particulars of the number of cowkeepers and dairymen registered, and of the retailers supplying milk from premises within the area, and into the area from premises outside the Rural District boundaries.

There is no licensed pasteurising plant in the district, but pasteurised milk supplies are available from sources outside its boundaries.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the administrative authority for the sections of the Food and Drugs Act dealing with adulteration. Information has been received that during the year one hundred and twenty-five samples were taken in this district for chemical analysis, and that during the same period one thousand six hundred and ninety samples were taken within the administrative area of the County.

Of those taken in this district one hundred and ten were of milk, three of spirits, two of sage and onion stuffing, and the remainder of miscellaneous articles of foodstuff. Nine samples of milk were found to be below standard.

No prosecutions were undertaken.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table IV shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified during 1948, classified according to age and sex, together with the number of patients removed to hospital, and the number of deaths, if any, from various diseases. Table V shows the incidence of notifiable infectious disease in the various parishes.

SMALLPOX - No case of smallpox was notified during the year.

VACCINATION - With the introduction of the National Health Service Act on July 5th, vaccination is no longer compulsory and the appointment of the Public Vaccinator has been abolished. The treatment can now be obtained quite easily by application to the family doctor or to the nearest clinic.

SCARLET FEVER - Twenty-three notifications were received during the year. The case rate per 1,000 population was 0.93 as against 1.73 for England and Wales. There were no deaths from the disease, the treatment of which has been greatly strengthened by the introduction of the sulpha drugs and penicillin. The position with regard to prevention is not so satisfactory: there is a method of immunisation, but it requires several injections, is inclined to cause reactions, and gives uncertain results. It is therefore not practised to any extent. Reliance is still placed on the isolation of the patient during the illness and on the quarantining for a short period of child contacts from the same family. In view of the mildness of the illness in its present form, it is rarely considered justifiable or necessary to exclude adults from work, or to require prolonged exclusion of children from school.

DIPHTHERIA - Two cases of diphtheria were notified, the case rate being 0.08, identical with the figure for England and Wales. Both persons affected were children in the same household who had the disease in a mild form. One case had been immunised six years previously.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION - Active immunisation against diphtheria has now been in operation in the district since 1935 and can claim a part in the reduction of the incidence and mortality rates which have occurred. The downward tendency of these rates, particularly as they relate to private residents, can be seen by referring to Table VI. The ideal is for every child to receive a primary treatment of two injections at about the age of nine months, with further single injections, at five, ten and fifteen years of age to reinforce the original treatment. It is not claimed even with such treatment that absolute immunisation will be attained by every child, but there is clear evidence that the risk of an untreated child contracting diphtheria is four times as great as that of an immunised child, and that the risk of death is nearly thirty times as great.

Clinics are held at regular intervals at all Infant Welfare Centres serving the district. These arrangements are intended primarily for infants and others under school age. For the treatment of school children in large numbers the most suitable arrangements are clinics organised in the schools in conjunction with the education authority.

TABLE IV

Disease	Cases Notified																				Total Both Sexes	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Deaths
	Under 1 year		1 to 3		3 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 25		25 to 45		45 to 65		65 and over		All Ages.				
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	4	1	3	6	2	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	10	13	23	20	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	-
Polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	3	2	2	2	10	9	19	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	4	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	8	14	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	1	-	4	3	7	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	5	6	23	36	45	38	90	93	3	5	6	4	3	4	-	-	-	-	175	186	361	1	-
Whooping Cough	5	11	17	14	28	15	40	44	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	91	87	178	3	-
TOTALS	11	17	44	56	79	57	135	144	6	10	8	10	7	8	5	4	3	2	298	308	606	28	-

TABLE V

	Abinger	Betchworth	Buckland	Capel	Charlwood	Headley	Holmwood	Horley	Leigh	Newdigate	Ockley	Wotton	TOTAL
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	12	2	2	2	2	23
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	11	1	-	-	3	19
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	1	-	-	-	-	14
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	2	-	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	7	11	3	9	3	22	17	251	-	12	19	7	361
Whooping Cough	-	9	-	1	2	16	-	118	1	1	29	1	178
TOTALS	9	23	3	12	7	39	30	399	4	15	52	13	606

TABLE VI

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

Year	No. of cases Notified	Incidence Rate per 1,000 Population	No. of Deaths	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population
1934	20	1.02	-	-
1935	5	0.25	-	-
1936	14	0.70	1	0.05
1937	13	0.64	3	0.15
1938	1	0.05	-	-
1939	1	0.05	-	-
1940	3	0.12	-	-
1941	3	0.12	-	-
1942	4	0.17	-	-
1943	-	-	-	-
1944	3	0.13	-	-
1945	1	0.05	-	-
1946	2	0.09	-	-
1947	-	-	-	-
1948	2	0.08	-	-

During the year visits have been paid to the schools at Betchworth, Buckland, Capel, Beare Green, Charlwood, Lowfield Heath, Horley (Albert Road), Leigh, Newdigate, Ockley, Wotton and Ranmore.

During the year five hundred and one children are known to have completed primary immunisation and six hundred and sixty-five secondary treatment. In addition some children may have been treated privately or in other districts, about whom information has not been received.

Of the estimated child population of the district it is known that one thousand, one hundred and thirty under the age of five years and two thousand, five hundred and thirty over five years but under fifteen years have received treatment, equivalent to percentages of 55.2 and 79.6 respectively of the estimated population of these age groups.

MEASLES - Outbreaks of measles were recorded in every parish except Leigh. The epidemic in Horley was large. No deaths occurred from the disease.

WHOOPING COUGH - Whooping Cough was reported from all parishes with the exception of Holmwood. One hundred and seventy-eight notifications being received during the year. The incidence rate was 7.24 compared with 3.42 for England and Wales. The majority of the cases occurred in children aged between three and ten years. Fortunately there were no deaths from the disease, but of all the acute infectious in children, whooping cough now takes first place as a cause of temporary and frequently of permanent disability and the illness is often aggravated by complications which may be fatal. It is extremely infectious and it is impossible to prevent its spread without complete dislocation of organised community life of the child population.

TUBERCULOSIS - Thirty-five new names were added to the tuberculosis register during the year. They include twenty-eight of persons already domiciled in the district and seven of persons who came to live here from other areas in which they had already been notified. Twenty-five of the notifications related to the pulmonary form of the disease and ten to the non-pulmonary form. Nine deaths occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis, representing an annual death rate of 0.37 per 1,000 population. There were no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The total tuberculosis death rate for England and Wales was 0.51. An analysis of the ages at which notifications were made and at which deaths occurred is to be found in Table VII.

For comparative purposes figures relating to the notification of tuberculosis and its mortality between the years 1938-48 are set out in Table VIII. The notification figures are those for persons domiciled in the district at the time of the diagnosis of the disease. There is a slight deterioration in this years figures as compared with 1947.

TABLE VII

	Primary notifications relating to persons resident in the Dorking and Horley District.				Secondary notifications of persons already notified in other districts and now resident in the Dorking and Horley Rural District.				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
20 to 25	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35	2	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 to 45	2	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
45 to 55	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 years and over	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
TOTALS	10	8	4	6	4	3	-	-	6	3	-	-

TABLE VIII

TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY

Year	Total Primary Notification	Rate per 1,000 Population	Total Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1938	12	0.58	7	0.33
1939	15	0.72	4	0.18
1940	17	0.84	8	0.33
1941	26	1.05	14	0.56
1942	22	0.94	13	0.59
1943	22	0.97	15	0.65
1944	27	1.2	9	0.40
1945	23	1.07	15	0.70
1946	20	0.89	14	0.62
1947	22	0.94	7	0.30
1948	28	1.14	9	0.37

Brookmead,
Station Road,
Dorking.

November, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health and Housing Committee
DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during 1948.

The Annual Report provides an opportunity of reviewing the work of the Department and may be likened to the annual stocktaking of a commercial undertaking. It also provides an opportunity of looking forward to the work which remains to be done. The work of the sanitary inspector continues to increase. New legislation imposes new duties, research and study suggests ways of improved technique, and new approaches to public health problems. The Ministry of Health and other Departments are continually issuing reports upon various matters of public heath importance, and it is a matter for regret that, if the maximum benefit is to be obtained from the study of these documents, such study must take place in what would normally be regarded as the officers own time. Under present conditions it is not possible to devote "official" time to report reading and study.

During the past year special consideration was given to the hygiene of catering establishments and to the assessment of the housing needs of the District. These two matters are referred to later.

As in previous years visits to housing applicants and the supervision of the war-time hutments occupied the major proportion of the departments time, and accounted for nearly one fifth of the total visits.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for the interest they have shown and the careful consideration they have given to the work of the department, to Dr. Ive, the Medical Officer of Health, for his continuing advice and encouragement, and to the members of my staff for their support,

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERIC A. ATIINSON

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

(1) INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING RE-INSPECTIONS)

HOUSING

Inspection of dwellings under Public Health Acts	302
" " " " Housing Acts	378
" " " re overcrowding	2
Visits to housing applicants	479

COUNCIL HOUSE MAINTENANCE

Visits to council cottages for repairs	689
" " vacant and requisitioned premises	92
" " wartime hutments	296

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Visits to slaughterhouses	6
" " Butchers shops	13
" " Bakehouses	11
" " Cafes and Restaurants	56
" " Dairies and Milk Shops	5
" " Cowsheds and Farms	52
" " Fishmongers	3
" " Ice Cream Dealers	20
" for the purpose of sampling:-	
No. of ice cream samples taken	14
" " milk samples taken	1
" " water samples taken	101

PUBLIC HEALTH VISITS

Visits re moveable dwellings	32
" " dustbins	73
" " water supply	20
" " factories	15
" " drainage	43
" " cesspool nuisances	163
" " flies and other pests	47
" " rats and mice	219
" " rooms disinfested	11

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Enquiries re infectious disease	58
Rooms disinfected	14

OTHER MATTERS

Visits re new petroleum installations	5
Other unclassified visits	41

(2) NOTICES ISSUED AND ACTION TAKEN

The notices served and the action taken were as follows:-

(i) PRELIMINARY

Number of Notices served	138
" " " in respect of which work was in hand at the end of 1948	21
" " " complied with	69
" " " outstanding on 31st December, 1948	48

NOTICES ISSUED AND ACTION TAKEN (contd).

(ii) STATUTORY

Number of Notices served	12
" " " in respect of which work was in hand at the end of 1948	-
" " " complied with	8
" " " outstanding on 31st December, 1948	4

(3) FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938

During the year a special survey of catering establishments in the parish of Horley was undertaken to ascertain which food was being handled in a hygienic manner in the area under survey and to ascertain what steps (if any) were required to improve existing conditions.

The following is a summary of the principal unsatisfactory conditions found:-

	Found	Remedied
Unclean Benches and Floors	9	9
Head Coverings not worn	26	
Clothing Unclean	4	4
Inadequate Sanitary Accommodation for Customers	16	3
Inadequate Sanitary Accommodation for Staff	1	1
Vermin	1	1
Inadequate Soap and Towels	1	1
Inadequate Washing Facilities	15	2
Inadequate Refuse Bins	-	-
Inadequate Washing up Facilities	6	4
Inadequate Crockery and Storage Cupboard	15	2
Inadequate Food Store	5	5
Utensils Unclean	3	3
Inadequate Drainage	1	-
Inadequate Water Supply	-	-
Premises in need of repair	8	-
Premises in need of Cleansing	11	11
Inadequate Ventilation	5	1
Inadequate Lighting	5	1

(4) ICE CREAM

Fourteen samples of ice cream were submitted to bacteriological examination, and the results were as follows:-

Sample No.	Loose and Prepacked	Methylene Blue Test	Coliform Test
1.	Prepacked	Decolourised at 0hrs.	1/10ml. 3 tubes out of 3.
2.	Loose	Not decolourised in 4½Hrs.	Absent in 1/10ml.
3.	Loose	Decolourised after 4 Hrs.	Absent in 1/10ml.
4.	Loose	Not decolourised in 4½Hrs.	1/10ml. 1 tube out of 3.
5.	Loose	Decolourised in 0hrs.	1/10ml. 3 tubes out of 3.
6.	Loose	Decolourised in 2½Hrs.	1/10ml. 3 tubes out of 3.
7.	Loose	Not decolourised in 4½Hrs.	1/10ml. 1 tube out of 3.
8.	Loose	Decolourised in 0hrs.	1/10ml. 3 tubes out of 3.
9.	Loose	Not decolourised in 4½Hrs.	Absent in 1/10ml.
10.	Loose	Decolourised in 4Hrs.	1/10ml. 3 tubes out of 3.
11.	Loose	Decolourised after ½Hr.	1/10ml. 1 tube out of 3.
12.	Loose	Decolourised after 4½Hrs.	1/10ml. 3 tubes out of 3.
13.	Loose	Not decolourised in 4½Hrs.	Absent in 1/10ml.
14.	Loose	Decolourised in 2½Hrs.	1/10ml. 1 tube out of 3.

During the year three applications were received for the registration of premises for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream and were approved.

(5) SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Towards the end of the year, the Ministry of Food introduced a scheme whereby certain slaughterhouses were to be reopened for the purpose of dealing with the slaughter of "cottagers" pigs and other occasional slaughters.

Slaughterhouses have been licensed in the following parishes:-

Charlwood.
Holmwood.
Ockley.

(6) HOUSING

This subject continued to form one of the major responsibilities of the department. In October, 1948, a special report on the probable housing requirements of the district was submitted for the consideration of the Housing Construction Committee. This Report stressed the need for erecting smaller accommodation than has been provided in the past, and pointed out that over 60% of the existing accommodation was "under-occupied", i.e. there were one or more spare bedrooms. The suggestion was also made that rather than housing being dealt with on a parish basis, certain parishes might with advantage combine to form "housing areas".

The administration and maintenance of the wartime hutments which were utilised for housing purposes continued to be a very difficult matter. At the end of the year the following number of huts were occupied:-

HORLEY	Pioneer Camp	35
	W.A.A.F. Site	16
	R.A.F. and Admin.	46
BUCKLAND	Clifton Lane	9
ABINGER	Parkhurst	6
		112

The huts on the Horley Gardens Estate are now showing signs of deterioration, and are in many instances approaching a condition where further repair is almost impossible.

The number of persons on the waiting list at the time of the report was eight hundred and ninety-four, and the County Agricultural Committee had indicated that, in addition one hundred and twenty-one houses would be required for agricultural workers. This showed a total demand for at least one thousand and fifteen new houses. In this connection it sould be borne in mind that housing demand, is not synonymous with housing need. The commencement of building operations in any parish is nearly always followed by a substantial increase in the number of applications for alternative housing. Conditions which are tolerable while the prospect of other accommodation is remote become intolerable when new houses are under construction. This is perhaps a natural human weakness, but it does tend to obscure the housing need, that is the number of families living in overcrowded or insanitary conditions.

Apart from the task of dealing with housing applications, continued progress was made in the inspection and remedy of housing defects, and five hundred and seventy-eight houses were inspected under the Housing Acts. Where defects were found to exist a preliminary notice was sent to the owners, and as will be seen the majority of the defects were remedied without any other action. In a few cases it was necessary to serve Statutory Notices before compliance was obtained. The policy of the Department has been, and will continue to be reasonable in its requests for work to be done. It is realised that the owners of many cottages have not been able to increase the rent paid by their tenants (except for rate increases) despite the fact that the cost of essential repairs is now more than two-and-a-half times the 1939 cost. On the other hand many owners have continued to collect the rent over very many years with no attempt to remedy minor defects which have with the passing years now reached major proportions, to the detriment of the tenants.

HOUSING (contd)

During the year two dwellings were closed under Housing Act procedures. One, in the parish of Capel, a wooden shed, let partly furnished, was the subject of a Demolition Order, and the other, in the parish of Horley, was closed as the result of an undertaking by the owner, not to relet. In both instances the Council offered alternative accommodation to the tenants.

Progress on the Hobhouse survey was continued and by the end of the year the work in inspection and recording had been completed. The following were the total provisional classification figures.

Category 1	745
" 2	2,150
" 3	713
" 4	14
" 5	275
Not Classified	13
Total	3,910

RATS, MICE AND OTHER INSECT PESTS

During the year the Council received powers delegated by the Surrey County Council under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and the Rodent Operator commenced his duties on the 5th November, 1948. Between that date and the 31st December, 1948, thirty-six reports of rat or mice infestations were received, and dealt with as follows :-

	Dwelling Houses	Commercial Premises
Number of Reports received	32	4
Number of premises surveyed	52	3
Number of Inspections and Re-inspections	150	27
Estimated number of rats killed by poison baiting	318	408
Estimated number of mice killed by poison baiting	15	219

In addition to the above the Sanitary Inspectors carried out two hundred and nineteen visits of an advisory nature.

A feature of the work carried out is that it included five major infestations -- a major infestation occurring when the estimated number of rats exceeds twenty.

From the commencement the Council decided to offer free service to householders, and to charge for work carried out at commercial premises on a basis of time and materials plus a percentage for administration.

BED BUGS

No infestations of bed bugs were reported during the year.

FLIES

In April the department received no fewer than thirty-three complaints of nuisance arising from fly infestations, and this involved forty-three visits. Specimens forwarded to the Natural History Museum were identified as Musca autmnalis.

I reported briefly to the Council on the number of complaints that had been received concerning nuisance from flies, and the following additional facts may be of interest.

The complaints related to thirty-three premises, and involved forty-three visits. The species of fly giving rise to nuisance was Musca autumnalis, which breeds in cow manure in open pasture land. The fly hibernates during winter months, in roof spaces and similar situations, and the same place may be used by successive generations for a great many years. With the warm spring weather the flies "swarm" and then seek open pastures, and it is during the swarming period - usually confined to a few days, that they give rise to nuisance. The fly does not enter dwellings and has no known public health importance.

The director of the Natural History Museum visited Horley Church in connection with this nuisance, and it is understood that he will endeavour to arrange with a firm of fumigators to carry out experimental treatment, which will prevent further hibernation in the steeple. The use of D.D.T. smokes is not possible because they usually require heat for the generation of the gas, and to use heat amongst the dry timbers of the Church steeple would be too dangerous. From the construction of the steeple, spraying with liquids is a physical impossibility, and the results of the proposed treatment will be awaited with a great deal of interest.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The number of cowkeepers, retail purveyors, etc., in the district at the 31st December, 1948 were as follows :-

Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors	191
Cowkeepers and Retail Purveyors with premises in the area	35
Retail Purveyors with premises outside the area	3
Number of registered cowsheds and dairies	226

During the year eight changes or additions were made to the cowshed and dairy registers.

MILK AND DAIRIES (contd)

Licences to deal in graded milks were issued as follows:-

	Accredited	Tuberculin Tested.	Pasteurised
Dealers Licences	2	8	5
Supplementary Licences	5	-	-
Bottling Licences	5	-	-

MORTUARY

Fifteen bodies were received into the Mortuary during the year.